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SEP 14 2005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Phadnis *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/910,936

Art Unit: 2152

Filed: 07/24/2001

Examiner: Nguyen, Brian D

For: Forwarding Packets in a Gateway
Performing Network Address
Translation (NAT)

Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-006/2879

Declaration by Applicants' Attorney Under 37 CFR 1.131

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Declaration is offered to prove

(A) Diligence from a period prior to June 14, 2001 up to the filing date (7/24/2001) of the above-captioned application (points numbered 1-7 below); and

(B) Present unavailability of inventors Praneet BACHHETI and Anuradha KARUPPIAH (points 8-12 below).

I, Narendra R Thappeta, declare as follows:

1. On a day prior to June 14, 2001, I was requested to prepare and file a patent application by Cisco Systems, Inc. (hereafter "Cisco") for a matter identified by Cisco Sequence Number: 2879. That sequence number forms part of the attorney docket number.

2. On a day prior to June 14, 2001, I met Mr. Amit Phadnis, a named inventor on the subject patent application, in the Cisco Systems' offices of Bangalore (India), and prepared a draft of the patent application.

3. On a day prior to June 14, 2001, I sent a draft of the prepared patent application to Mr. Amit Phadnis by electronic mail (email). A copy of the cover letter sent with the first draft is

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attached as Exhibit B. The application was prepared based on information I received from Mr. Amit Phadnis in a meeting prior to June 14, 2001.

4. Exhibit B contains a statement that, "The application is believed to be complete in all respects except for the points noted in the footnotes." Based on this statement, it is my recollection that the inventors had disclosed to me (in the meeting noted above in point 2) at least the features of claims 1 and 2.

5. On July 2 2001, I sent to Mr. Jason Kipnis of Weil, Gotshal and Manges, a draft of the application for his review as evidenced by Exhibit E, which is a copy of the cover letter sent with the draft for review. Between June 14 2005 and July 2 2001, it is believed that Mr. Amit Phadnis reviewed and approved the application for filing..

6. On July 6 2001, I sent the application along with the declaration and assignment documents to the inventors for execution, as evidenced by Exhibit D. I received the signed documents in due course.

7. On July 24 2001, the present patent application was filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and assigned Application Serial No. 09/910,936.

8. I enquired by telephone calls with Mr. Amit Phadnis (inventor on the present case, but no longer employed by the Cisco Systems) and Mr. Pankaj Vyas, presently employed as a manager by Cisco Systems India Private Limited, Bangalore, (where all the three inventors worked at the time of making the invention) on the whereabouts (phone number, email or postal address) of the Mr. Praneet BACHHETI and Ms. Anuradha KARUPPIAH some time in May 2005, and did not receive any pointers or information.

9. On May 25 2005, I sent a letter to Mr. Praneeth Bachheti by FedEx with tracking number 848724623960 to his last known address of 4311 Norwalk Drive, T#208, San Jose, CA - 95129, as evidenced by Exhibit F. The corresponding tracking details from the URL <http://www.fedex.com/cgi-bin/tracking>, are attached as Exhibit G. As may be readily observed from the tracking results, it is stated that it is an "incorrect address". I also received a call from FedEx

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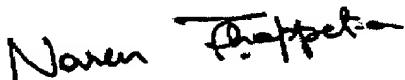
Office also confirming that the address was not that of Mr. Praneeth Bachheti, and for instructions on how to handle that package.

10. I further performed a search on Google search engine (www.google.com) with the key words "Praneeth Bachheti" (without the quotes around) and could not locate the present contact information for Mr. Bachheti. The search results are shown as Exhibit H.

11. On May 25 2005, I sent a letter to Ms. Anuradha KARUPPIAH by FedEx with tracking number 848724623993 to her last known address of 3500 Granada Avenue, #383, Santa Clara, CA 95051, as evidenced by the attached exhibit I. The corresponding tracking details from the URL <http://www.fedex.com/cgi-bin/tracking>, are attached as Exhibit J. As may be readily observed from the tracking results, it is stated that it is an "incorrect address". I received a call from FedEx Office also confirming that the address was not that of Mr. Praneeth Bachheti., and for instructions on how to handle that package.

12. I further performed a search on Google search engine with the key words "Anuradha KARUPPIAH" (including quotes around) and could not locate the present contact information for Ms. Karuppiyah. The search results are shown as Exhibit K. Removing the quotes around did not provide any specific pointers to the present contact information of Ms. Karuppiyah.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.



September 14, 2005
(Date)

Narendra R Thappeta
Attorney for Applicants
Registration Number: 41,416